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HOUSE RESOLUTION 132
By Windle

A RESOLUTION to recognize and congratulate the soldiers of the
278th Armored Cavalry Regiment on the
occasion of the unit's 20th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to the
members of those exemplary organizations who diligently work for the betterment of their fellow
citizens, community and state; and

WHEREAS, through their deep devotion and selfless acts, the soldiers of the 278th
Armored Cavalry Regiment have, for 20 years, nobly served the citizens of Tennessee and the
nation; and

WHEREAS, the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment was activated on May 1, 1997, and
has approximately 5,000 members stationed throughout East and Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the unit, as only one of two armored cavalry regiments in America's armed
forces, plays an especially important role in the country's defense; and

WHEREAS, under federal command, the regiment's soldiers may be deployed to any
part of the world to protect national interests and to ensure national security; and

WHEREAS, on February, 16, 1997, 25 soldiers from the 670th Air Traffic Services
Company in Smyrna were called to active duty to Fort Benning, Georgia for possible service in
Bosnia; and

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WHEREAS, during Operation Desert Storm, 250 soldiers from throughout the regiment were activated, with the majority of such soldiers providing maintenance and supply support; and

WHEREAS, if activated as a unit during a time of national crisis, the mission of the 278th ACR would be to act as the eyes and ears of the U.S. Army; and

WHEREAS, the unit's soldiers would conduct reconnaissance missions to find weaknesses in the enemy forces, and to prevent the enemy from finding weaknesses in friendly forces; and

WHEREAS, under state command, the unit may be used to restore law and order, protect life and property and to provide assistance during natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, most of the 278th ACR's meritorious "citizen-soldiers" train one weekend each month and two weeks per year; and

WHEREAS, the 278th ACR is comprised of 60 company-sized units located throughout East and Middle Tennessee, from Nashville to Bristol. They are organized into 3 tank squadrons, a combat aviation squadron, a support squadron, an engineer company, an air defense battery, a chemical company, a military intelligence company and a headquarters troop; and

WHEREAS, the Regimental Headquarters, located in Knoxville, provides command and control for all these units; and

WHEREAS, although the unit was officially organized in 1977, the proud history and heritage of the 278th ACR began more than 200 years ago with the formation of a company of mounted militia under the command of Colonel John Sevier along the banks of the Nolichucky River; and

WHEREAS, this company of East Tennesseans, combined with other "over the mountain men," met and defeated the British commander Colonel Ferguson at the Battle of Kings Mountain in 1780; and

WHEREAS, since then, military units from Tennessee have been activated for duty in The War of 1812, The Mexican-American War in 1846, The Civil War, The Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, The Korean War, and The Berlin Crisis of 1958; and

WHEREAS, during the Mexican War in 1846, the President called for 2,800 volunteers from Tennessee; 30,000 volunteered and forever gave Tennessee the nickname "The Volunteer State." From that heritage, the 278th ACR's motto "I Volunteer Sir" was derived; and

WHEREAS, during the Civil War, East Tennessee provided volunteer cavalry regiments for both the Blue and the Gray. Volunteers from East Tennessee fought in all major battles including Shiloh, Chickamauga, Knoxville, Lookout Mountain, Stone River, Fort Donelson and Fort Pillow; and

WHEREAS, since 1945, units of the Regiment have been organized, re-organized, designated and re-designated as the 173rd Cavalry Regiment, 230th Reconnaissance, 117th Infantry, 278th Regimental Combat Team, 278th Infantry Brigade, and on May 1, 1977 as the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment; and

WHEREAS, the courageous soldiers of the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment have received many high accolades recognizing their commendable work and praiseworthy accomplishments, and they are very proud of their faithful service to the State of Tennessee and the nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we recognize and congratulate the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment on the occasion of the unit's 20th anniversary and wish these praiseworthy public servants continued success in their most worthwhile endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.